



# House of Representatives

## **File No. 633**

General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**(Reprint of File No. 22)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5527  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 26, 2006

### **AN ACT CONCERNING TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) Each publisher of college  
2 textbooks shall make available to a prospective purchaser of their  
3 products who is a member of the faculty of an institution of higher  
4 education (1) the price at which the publisher would make the  
5 products available to the store on the campus of such institution that  
6 would offer such products to students, and (2) the history of revisions  
7 for such products, if any. For purposes of this section, "products"  
8 means all versions of a textbook or set of textbooks, except custom  
9 textbooks or special editions of textbooks, available in the subject area  
10 for which a prospective purchaser is teaching a course, including  
11 supplemental items, both when sold together or separately from a  
12 textbook.

13       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Board of Trustees of the  
14 Community-Technical Colleges shall develop a policy that (1) provides  
15 for the disbursement of financial aid to students who have met all

16 federal, state and institutional requirements for financial aid by the  
 17 first day of the academic term, or (2) permits students to use financial  
 18 aid that has not yet been disbursed at stores on the campuses of the  
 19 colleges under the board's jurisdiction to purchase during the first  
 20 week of the academic term required textbooks for courses taught at the  
 21 colleges.

22 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Board of Trustees of the  
 23 Connecticut State University System shall develop a policy that (1)  
 24 provides for the disbursement of financial aid to students who have  
 25 met all federal, state and institutional requirements for financial aid by  
 26 the first day of the academic term, or (2) permits students to use  
 27 financial aid that has not yet been disbursed at stores on the campuses  
 28 of the universities under the board's jurisdiction to purchase during  
 29 the first week of the academic term required textbooks for courses  
 30 taught at the universities.

31 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Board of Trustees for the  
 32 University of Connecticut shall develop a policy that (1) provides for  
 33 the disbursement of financial aid to students who have met all federal,  
 34 state and institutional requirements for financial aid by the first day of  
 35 the academic term, or (2) permits students to use financial aid that has  
 36 not yet been disbursed at stores on the campuses of the university  
 37 under the board's jurisdiction to purchase during the first week of the  
 38 academic term required textbooks for courses taught at the university.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
UConn	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

#### ***Explanation***

Adopting policies that would allow students to purchase textbooks during the first week of an academic term using financial aid that the students may not have yet received results in no fiscal impact to any of the constituent units of higher education. In some cases this is current practice and if not can be accommodated within the existing administrative structure without the need for additional resources.

House "A" (LCO 4172) is technical and has no fiscal impact.

#### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5527 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires textbook publishers to make available to faculty at all colleges and universities in the state certain information about their products. And it requires state public colleges and universities to adopt a policy that either permits students to use their financial aid to purchase textbooks at campus bookstores before they receive the aid or provides for disbursement of their aid when the term begins.

The bill requires a textbook publisher to make available to college faculty the price at which it would make its products available to the college bookstore and the history of the products' revisions. Under the bill, "products" means all versions of a textbook or set of textbooks in a subject area in which the faculty member teaches, including supplemental items (such as compact discs and workbooks) that may be packaged with a textbook or sold separately. The term does not include custom or special edition textbooks.

The bill requires the UConn, Connecticut State University, and Community-Technical College boards of trustees to adopt one of two policies governing student financial aid. The policy must (1) allow students to purchase textbooks at campus bookstores during the first week of an academic term using financial aid that the students may have not yet received or (2) provide for disbursement of financial aid to students who meet all federal, state, and institutional requirements for the aid before the first day of an academic term.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the original file's (File 22) requirement that publishers provide a complete list of products, their wholesale prices, and their intended duration on the market with the requirement that they make the bookstore's cost and the products' revision history available. And it adds the provision on a policy for disbursing financial aid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea    15    Nay   0    (03/07/2006)